CABLE

President Hosni Mubarak
Cairo

The Islamic Council appeals to you, as a Muslim and as the final arbitrator in their case, to save the lives of those accused of assassinating ex-President Sadat.

The trial, though a very important case in the history of Egypt, was illegal and held in complete secrecy, with public opinion kept in absolute ignorance of the proceedings. The accused had no opportunity to defend themselves properly; witnesses for the defence were not called; the chief lawyer for the defence was himself arrested.

We urge you to act with humanity and justice by ordering a re-trial which would be open to the public throughout and conducted in conformity with the established principles of justice.

Salem Azzam, Secretary General, Islamic Council

8 March 1982